

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Close wolverine trapping and hunting in Unit 10 as follows:

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season	Bag Limit
...		
(14) Wolverine		
...		
Units 6, 7, 9(A), 9(C), 9(D), [10,] 15, and 16(B)	Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb.	No limit
...		
<u>Unit 10</u>	<u>No open season</u>	
...		

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(14) Wolverine		
...		
Units 6–9 [10], 12, 15, 16(B), [10,] 15, and 16(B) 17 and 19–25, and 26(A) 1 wolverine	Sept. 1–Mar. 31	Sept. 1–Mar. 31
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolverines only occur in Unit 10 on Unimak Island where they are very rare. There is one sealing record for a wolverine shot in 1980, and an observation by a wildlife biologist of a lone wolverine high in alpine snow in 2011. There are no records of harvests in subsistence household surveys (however, the only data point is a 1988 survey for False Pass). Wolf, fox, bears and their tracks are routinely seen on beaches where marine mammal carcasses have washed up, but no wolverine sign has been observed at these important food sources in the last 6 years of regular trips to the island. Wolverine may have crossed Isanotski Strait regularly on pack ice in decades past; sea ice at Unimak was much more common early in the twentieth century than it is now. While there is a positive customary and traditional use finding for wolverines in all units with a harvestable portion, and an amount necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion, the Department of Fish and Game does not consider Unit 10 to have a harvestable portion. Trapping and hunting pressure on Unimak is currently low to nonexistent, which, combined with a lack of data regarding wolverine presence justifies closing of the hunting and trapping seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-071)
